

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

an automated banking machine cassette, wherein the cassette includes at least one media storage area, wherein the cassette includes a movable partition operative to direct guide media to at least one media storage area, wherein the cassette, while in an automated banking machine, is operative to receive media guided thereinto by the partition, and wherein the cassette is operative to either automatically lock or automatically unlock the partition responsive to movement of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine.

2-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the cassette includes a partition lock arrangement, wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically lock the partition in a media directing position.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically lock the partition during removal of the cassette from an automated banking machine.

47. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically unlock the partition during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a movable projection button, wherein the button is operative to engage a component of an automated banking machine, wherein the engagement is operative to move the button in a first direction, and wherein movement of the button in the first direction is operative to unlock the partition.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein movement of the button in a direction opposite the first direction is operative to lock the partition.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a torsion spring and a lock arm, wherein the torsion spring is connected to the partition, wherein the lock arm is operatively movable with the projection button, wherein the torsion spring and a lock arm are engageable to lock the partition.

51. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 50 wherein the torsion spring includes an engagement hook, wherein the lock arm includes an engagement hook, and wherein the hooks are operative to be placed in locking engagement to lock the partition.

52. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 50 wherein the cassette includes a partition drive lever located at a first side of the cassette, wherein movement of the lever is operative to correspondingly move the partition.

53. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the partition lock arrangement is located at a second side of the cassette, wherein the second side is opposite the first side.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 53 wherein the torsion spring is operatively connected to the lever.

55. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 54 wherein the torsion spring biases the partition toward a media directing position.

56. (currently amended) A method including:

- (a) providing an automated banking machine cassette, wherein the cassette includes at least one media storage area, and wherein the cassette includes a movable partition operative to ~~direct~~ guide media to at least one media storage area, wherein the cassette, while in an automated banking machine, is operative to receive media guided thereinto by the partition;

(b) performing at least one of

(b1) removing the cassette from an automated banking machine, wherein the removing causes the partition to become automatically locked;

(b2) inserting the cassette into an automated banking machine, wherein the inserting causes the partition to become automatically unlocked.

57. (previously presented) The method according to claim 56 and further including performing both (b1) and (b2), wherein (b1) is subsequent to (b2), and wherein (b1) and (b2) comprise the same automated banking machine.

58. (previously presented) The method according to claim 57 wherein the cassette includes a partition lock arrangement operative to lock the partition in a media directing position, wherein (b1) includes automatically locking the partition in a media directing position.

59. (previously presented) The method according to claim 58 wherein (b2) includes automatically unlocking the partition from a media directing position.

60. (previously presented) The method according to claim 59 wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a movable projection button, wherein the button is operative to engage a component of the automated banking machine, wherein the engagement is operative to move the button in a first direction, and wherein movement of the button in the first direction is operative to unlock the partition, and wherein (b2) includes engagingly moving the button in the first direction.

61. (previously presented) The method according to claim 60 wherein the cassette includes a partition drive lever located at a first side of the cassette, wherein movement of the lever is operative to correspondingly move the partition, and further including

(c) moving the partition responsive to movement of the lever.

62. (previously presented) The method according to claim 61 wherein the partition lock arrangement is located at a second side of the cassette, wherein the second side is opposite the first side, wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a torsion spring, wherein the torsion spring is connected to the partition, and further including

(d) biasing the partition toward a media directing position via the torsion spring.

63. (currently amended) A method including:

- (a) automatically changing the locking status of a compartment guide of an automated banking machine cassette responsive to movement of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine, wherein the cassette includes at least one media compartment, wherein the guide is operative to direct media to at least one media compartment, wherein the cassette, while in an automated banking machine, is operative to receive media directed thereinto by the guide, and wherein the guide is operative to be locked and unlocked.

64. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63 wherein the guide is automatically placed in a locked condition during removal of the cassette from an automated banking machine, wherein the guide is automatically placed in an unlocked condition during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine, wherein (a) includes automatically changing the locking status of the compartment guide during one of removal or insertion of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine.

65. (previously presented) The method according to claim 64 and further including

- (b) subsequent to (a), automatically changing the locking status of the compartment guide during the other of removal or insertion of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine.